DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, EDGEWOOD ARSENAL
EDGEWOOD ARSENAL, MARYLAND 21010

SMUEA-BL-B

13 February 1973

Mr. Emory L. Brown, Jr.
Rt 4, Box 82
Squankum Road
Formingdale, NJ 07727

Dear Mr. Brown:

The metallic fragment could have been deposited at a wound of entrance or exit; we have to consider all facts in making our judgement. Since the fragment is embedded in the outer table, it indicates an entrance wound. More significant is the description of the hole in the skull; 8 mm in diameter on the outer surface and as much as 20 mm on the internal surface. This enlargement of the hole in the inner table of the skull is caused by the spalling of bone fragments and is a most reliable indication of bullet direction (this was an entrance wound).

This metallic fragment was probably deposited when the bullet jacket ruptured against the skull. This rupturing of the jacket was one of the things that surprised me when we tested the bullet (same lot as used by Oswald) against human skulls. Apparently, the gilding metal was fairly soft, allowing these full-jacketed military bullets to act like soft nosed hunting bullets. If Oswald had used the Italian ammunition, which had steel jackets, the head wound would have been much less severe, but probably still fatal.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred G. Olivier

ALFRED G. OLIVIER, V.M.D.
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